



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Nashville District

Public Notice

Public Notice No. **03-41**

Date: May 2, 2003

Application No. **200300677**

Please address all comments to:
Nashville District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch
3701 Bell Road, Nashville, TN 37214

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY
AND
STATE OF ALABAMA

SUBJECT: Proposed Public Boat Ramp

TO ALL CONCERNED: The application described below has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit pursuant to **Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA)** for the discharge of fill material into waters of the United States, and a Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) permit pursuant to **Section 26a of the TVA Act**. Before a permit can be issued, certification must be provided by the state of Alabama, pursuant to **Section 401(1)(1) of the CWA**, that applicable water quality standards will not be violated. By copy of this notice, the applicant hereby applies for the required certification.

APPLICANT: Limestone County Commission
310 West Washington Street
Athens, Alabama 35611

LOCATION: Lucy's Branch Embayment, a tributary to Tennessee River Mile 287.0R, Wheeler Lake, Limestone County, Alabama (Cairo Quad, lat 34-46-36.9120, lon 87-13-10.5240)

DESCRIPTION: The proposed work consists of the construction of a boat ramp at the Limestone County Park. The boat ramp would be 30' wide. The ramp would be 170' long, from top Elevation 570.0 to bottom Elevation 546.0', which is 10' below the Normal Summer Pool (NSP) Elevation 556.0' for Wheeler Lake. The construction of the ramp would involve pre-casting the concrete upland and then pushing the ramp into place in the lake. The purpose of the ramp would be to provide enhanced public boat launching opportunities.

Plans of the proposed work are attached to this notice.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA (40 CFR Part 230). A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The work has been categorically excluded from environmental documentation by 33 CFR Part 325, Appendix B, Paragraph 6, which became effective on March 4, 1988. An Environmental Assessment may be prepared if extraordinary circumstances are revealed during the public interest review

The National Register of Historic Places has been consulted and no properties listed in or eligible for the National Register are known which would be affected by the proposed work. This review constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area. Copies of this notice are being sent to the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Based on available information, the proposed work will not destroy or endanger any federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats, as identified under the Endangered Species Act, and, therefore, initiation of formal consultation procedures with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not planned at this time.

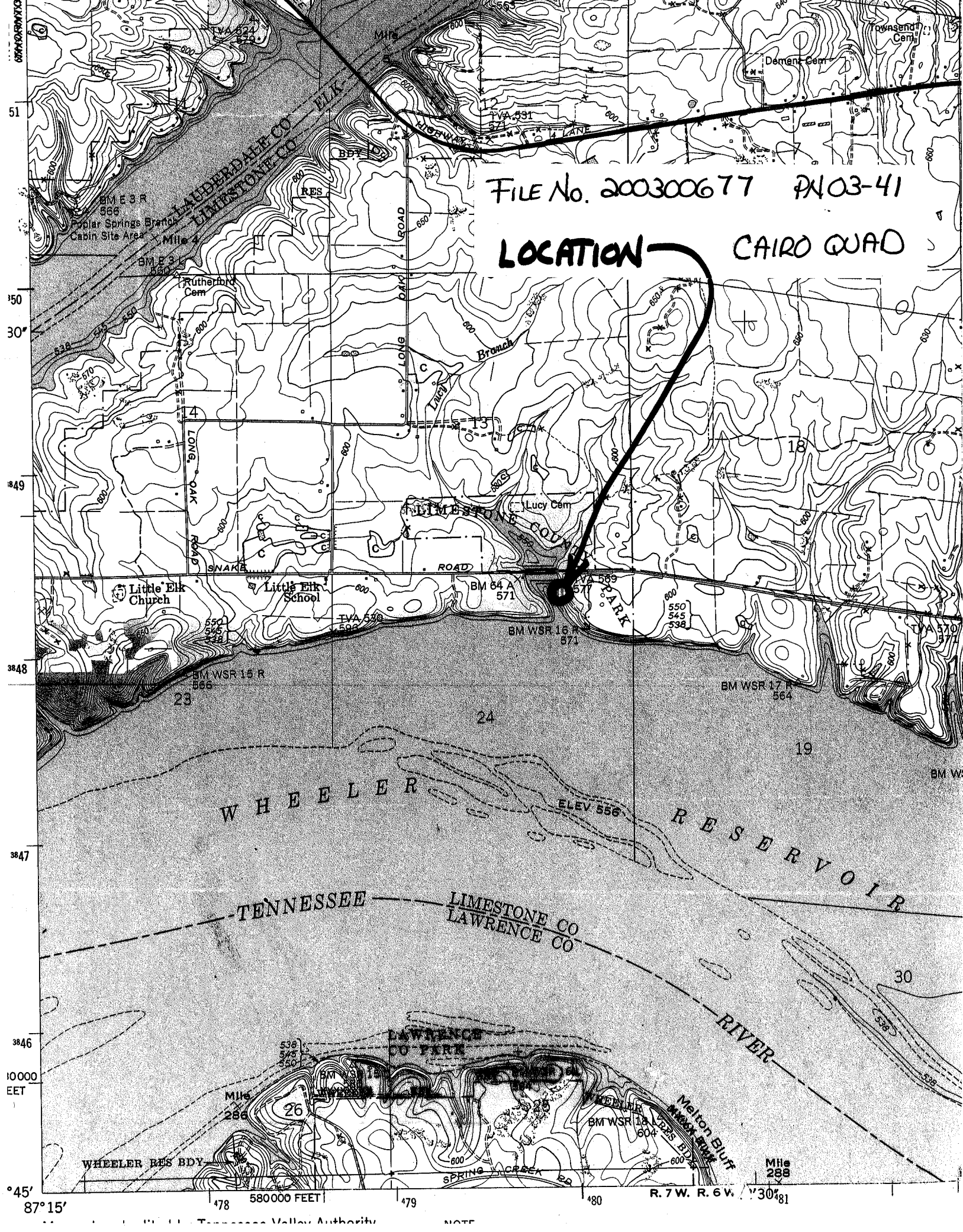
Other federal, state, and/or local approvals required for the proposed work are as follows:

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) approval is required under Section 26a of the TVA Act for the proposed work. In addition to other provisions of its approval, TVA would require the applicant to employ best management practices to control erosion and sedimentation, as necessary, to prevent adverse aquatic impacts.

Water Quality Certification from the state of Alabama is required for the proposed work in accordance with Section 401(a)(1) of the Clean Water Act.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

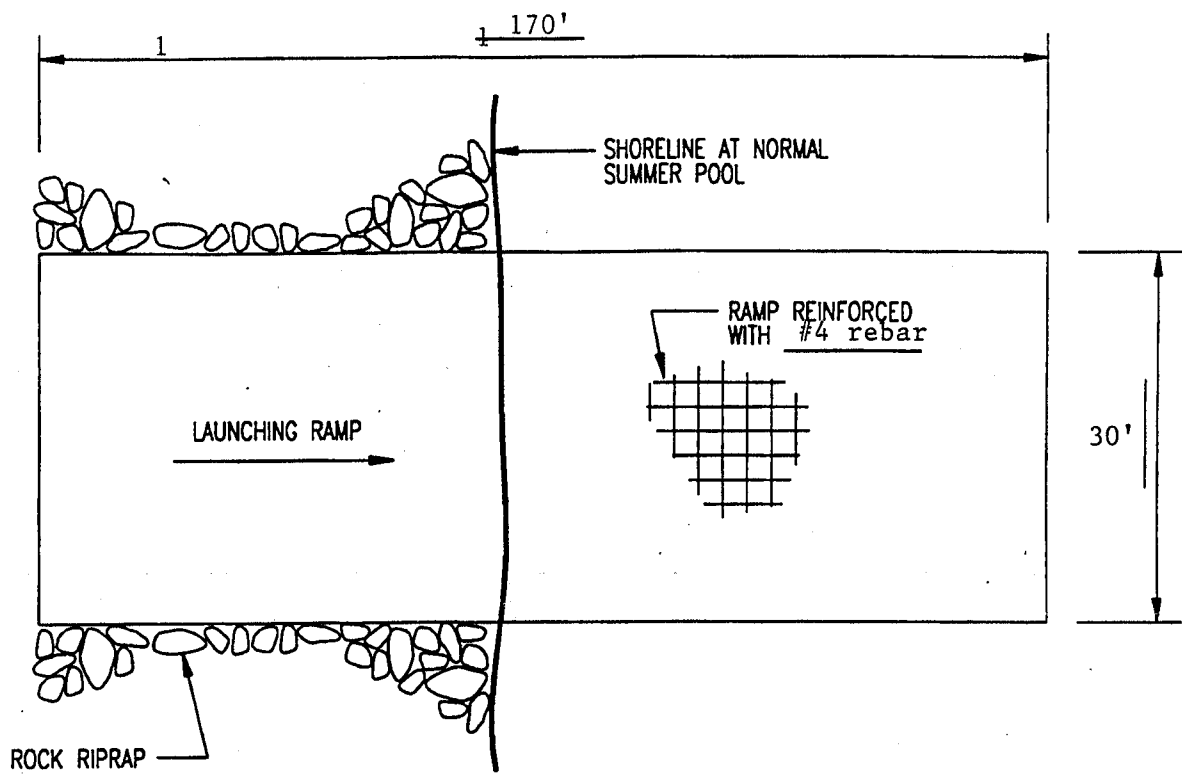
Written statements received in this office on or before **May 19, 2003**, will become a part of the record and will be considered in the determination. Any response to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, Attention: Amy Robinson, at the above address, telephone (615) 369-7509. It is not necessary to comment separately to TVA since copies of all comments will be sent to that agency and will become part of its record on the proposal. However, if comments are sent to TVA, they should be mailed to Mr. Tim Gilbert, Tennessee Valley Authority, Wheeler Land Management Office, P.O. Box 1010, Muscle Shoals, Alabama 35662-1010.



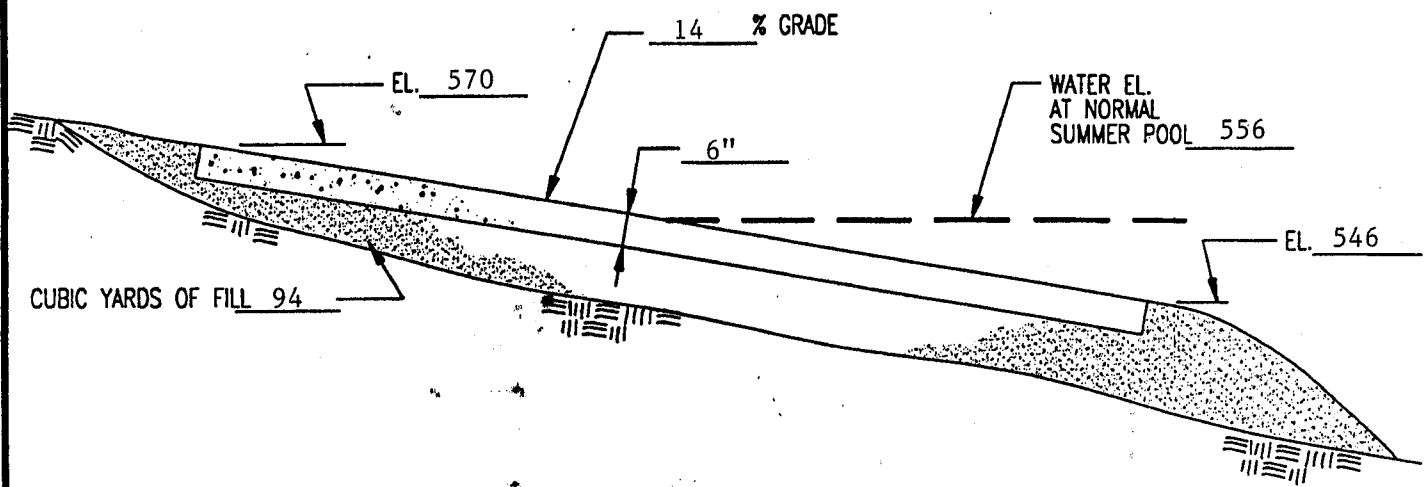
FILE No. 200300677 PN03-41

LOCATION CAIRO QUAD

WHEELER RES BDY. 580000 FEET 478 479 480 R. 7 W. R. 6 W. 30°45' 87°15'



PLAN



SECTION THRU CONCRETE RAMP

PN03-41

File No. 200300677

THE NORMAL SUMMER WATER LEVEL IS:
- 556' - Wheeler Reservoir



Wheeler Watershed Team

TYPICAL CONCRETE RAMP DETAIL

PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION:

STREAM NAME Tennessee River SUBDIVISION NAME N/A

RESERVOIR NAME Wheeler LOT NUMBER N/A

MILE MARKER 287 Right Bank MAP NO. 170-D

(APPLICANT'S NAME) Limestone County Commission

NOTE:

INCLUDE ALL DIMENSIONS AND ELEVATIONS WHERE INDICATED.